

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 05566 081447Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-03 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01

OPIC-02 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07

SS-14 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-04

DRC-01 /084 W

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P R 081300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5175

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: EAID EFIN PFOR IBRD GH

SUB: GHANA DEBT

1. MAJ. GEN . ASHLEY-LASSEN, LEADER OF THE GHANA NEGOTIATING TEAM, CALLED CREDITOR MISSION CHIEFS AND CHARGES TO MFA OCTOBER 7 FOR SERIAL TWENTY MINUTE SESSIONS BEGINNING WITH UK HICOMER STANLEY AT 1000 HOURS. MY CALL WAS SET FOR 1140 FOLLOWING

JAPANESE CHARGE SUZUKI. GOG REPS PRESENT WERE OWUSU - ACHEAMPONG, SUPERVISING DIRECTOR, POLITICAL, MFA; ASMAH, SUPERVISING DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC, MFA; AN OFFICIAL TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS ASHIABOR, SR. PRINSEC, MINFINANCE: TETTEH, DEPUTY PROTOCOL CHIEF, AND A NOTETAKER.

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 05566 081447Z

2. AFTER PRELIMINARIES, ASHLEY-LASSEN SAID MEETINGS WERE FOR

PURPOSE INFORMING CREDITORS THAT FOLLOWING UP ON ROME AGREEMENTS, GOG DESIRES BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CREDITORS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND DECEMBER 15 SO THAT PAYMENTS CAN BEGIN DECEMBER 31.

3. HE REFERRED TO DE MINIMIS PROVISIONS APPLICABLE IN U.S. CASE AND SAID PAYMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE. HE ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ABOUT 25,000 DOLLARS ARE STILL OWING ON THE U.S. DEBT. I RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW THE EXACT AMOUNT DUE THE U.S., I WAS SURE THAT 25,000 DOLLARS HE MENTIONED REFERRED TO OUTSTANDING INSTALLMENT DUE, RATHER THAN BALANCE OF DEBT. (THIS WAS QUICKLY CONFIRMED BY OWUSU-ACHEAMPONG.) ASHLEY-LASSEN CONTINUED THAT IN ANY CASE PAYMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE MADE. I SAID I WOULD REPORT THE FOREGOING TO THE USG AND THAT IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED THAT BILATERAL TALKS WITH CREDITORS WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY.

4. COMMENT: GORHAM, E/C OFFICER AT UK HICOM LATER TOLD ME STANLEY HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE ALONG SAME LINES AND THAT "IN VIEW OF DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE IN LONDON TODAY (OCTOBER 7) "HICOMER DOES NOT ANTICIPATE NECESSITY FOR CALLING CREDITORS' MEETING AT THIS TIME. FYI: GORHAM WAS REFERRING TO DEBT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN UK OFFICIALS AND DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ASANTE IN LONDON OCTOBER 7, WHICH GORHAM SAID HE EXPECTED TO "COME OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK".
HANSON

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Message Attributes

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